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Message Text

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15
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VOE-00 INSE-00 H-02

SCA-01 /031 W
---------- 019797
P R 171005Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4799
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 2237

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF, TC
SUBJ: LEBANESE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

REF: STATE 201846

1. FROM JANUARY 1, 1976 UNTIL AUGUST 15, 1976 POST HAS ISSUED 236 NIV'S TO LEBANESE PASSPORT HOLDERS. TOTAL NIV'S ISSUED DURING SAME PERIOD: 1,538. DURING SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE 17 LEBANESE REFUSED NIV'S OUT TOTAL OF 79 REFUSALS.

2. POST DOES NOT ISSUED IV'S. THESE PRESENTLY ISSUED BY KUWAIT. ABU DHABI, HOWEVER, DOES ALL HANDLING AND PROCESSING INCLUDING APPROVING PETITIONS. FILES THEN POUCHED KUWAIT FOR REQUEST FOR NUMBERS, TYPING, AND SEALING OF VISA. SINCE JANUARY 1, 1976, POST HAS PROCESSED AND DELIVERED 14 IV'S (OUT OF TOTAL: 26) TO LEBANESE NATIONS. PRESENTLY HAVE 27 IV APPLICATIONS FOR LEGANEE CITIZENS IN VAIOUS STAGES OF PROCESSING (TOAL PENDING IS 153) TOTAL IV'S DELIERED FOR ALL NATIONALITIES IN 1975 WAS 21 (LEBANESE : 11)

3. AS USUAL, ABOVE STATISTICS DONOT TELL WHOLE STORY. EMBASSY IN ABU DHABI AND EMBASSY OFFICE IN DUBAI HAVE BEEN INUNDATED WITH BOTH NIV AND IV INQUIRES BY LEBANESE NATIONALS. CONSULAR SECTIONS RECEIVING
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ON AVERAGE 15-20 TELEPHONE CALLS PER DAY FROM

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LEBANESE NATIONALS INQUIRING ABOUT VISAS TO US.
HAVE ALSO HAD AVERAGE 25-30 PERSONAL VISIST BY
LEBANESE MAKING SIMILAR INQUIRES. BASED ON
INFORMATION PROVIDED BY POST'S LOCAL EMPLOYEES
AND BY APPLICATION/INFORMATION FORMS, MANY ARE
DISCOURAGED FROM PURSUING APPLICATIONS. (EMBASSY
WAS FLOODED WITH INQUIES FOLLOWING APPEARANCE OF
ARTICLES IN LOCAL AND UK PRESS SAYING THAT LEBANESE
BEING GRANTED CARTE BLANCHE VISAS FOR IMMIGRATION
TO US.)

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LARGE MAJORITY OF UAE POPULATION
IS EXPATRIATE. LEBANESE ARRIVING IN COUNTRY
ARE TREATED NO DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHER 75 PERCENT OF
POPULATION.
AT TIME INITIAL ENTRY INTO UAE, FEW IF ANY LEBANESE
HAVE RESIDENCDE VISA. NEVERTHELESS, MOST OF THEM ARE
AFFORDED PRIVILEGE 96 HOUR TRANSIT VISA. THROUGH
FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS OR OTHER CONNECTIONS ALREADY
IN EMIRATES, LEBANESE USUALLY ABLE GAIN BOTH ADMISSION
AND SUBSEQUENTLY PERMISSION REMAIN IN UAE. MOST OF
NEW ARRIVALS ARE TAKEN UNDER WING OF FRIENDS OR
FAMILY MEMBERS; AND DUE SCARCITY SKILLED LABOR,
FEW LEBANESE SEEM TO HAVE HAD ANY EMPLOYMENT
PROBLEMS. ONCE LOCAL SPONSORSHIP HAS BEEN ACQUIRED,
IT SIMPLY MATTER OF OVERCOMING LOCAL BUREAUCRACY
IN ORDER OBTAIN RESIDENCE VISA/ WORK PERMIT.

5. FOR VARIETY REASONS, ECONOMIC SITUATION OF MOST
OF NEW ARRIVALS APPEARS BE FAR BETTER THAN MIGHT
BE EXPECTED OF REFUGEES FROM WAR ZONE. WE HAVE NOT
HEARD OF ANY DESTITUTION CASES. IN FACT, MANY OF
NEW ARRIVALS APPEAR TO HAVE ESCAPED WITH CONSIDERABLE
LIQUIDITY. THESE ASSETS APPARENTLY ARE BEING ABSORED
INTO ALREADY EXISTING ESTABLISHMENTS OR ARE BEING
INVESTED IN STARTING UP NEW BUSINESSES.

6. INTENT OF LEBANESE PRESENTLY IN UAE IS HARD TO
DETERMINE. MOST NEW ARRIVALS SAY THAT THEY WOULD
RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO LEBANON IF THERE WERE PEACE.
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FURTHERMORE, MOST SAY THAT THEY DO NOT WISH REMAIN
IN INHOSPITABLE CLIMATE OF GULF AND CULTURAL VACUUM
OF UAE, BUT THEY PRESENTLY HAVE NO CHOICE. BASED ON
INQUIRIES AND ON KNOWLEDGE OF LEBANESE, MANY WOULD
TAKE ADVANTAGE OPPORTUNITY IMMIGRATE TO US IF THEY
PRESENTLY ELEIGIBE OR IF THEY AFFORDED PRIVILEGE
OF 7TH PREFERENCE.
STERNER

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Draft Date: 17 AUG 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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